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moral education. But there is very little in what I have said which seriously traverses, or, indeed, is incompatible with, the views expressed in the volumes from which he quotes.

W. J. GREENSTREET.

STROUD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (Children Working for Wages): Return for England and Wales, giving the Number of Children attending Elementary Schools who are known to be Working for Wages or Employed for Profit, with their Ages, Standards, Occupations, Hours of Work, and Rates of Pay, and the Different Classes of Employment into which the Boys and Girls attending Elementary Schools in England and Wales went on leaving School during some Complete Year. Part I. and Part II.

Owing mainly to the efforts of the London Women's Industrial Council, we have now some statistical information upon an evil which every educationalist knew to exist, but the extent of which he could only conjecture. That school-children had to work hard for their parents out of school-hours, that many of them had regular employment both early in the morning and late at evening, that they went to school too tired to receive instruction, that the pay they got for their work was miserable, that they left school for occupations which gave them no training, are facts which every elementary school-teacher and manager knew, but they knew them only in connection with their own immediate localities. Fifteen months ago the Government consented to make inquiries upon these points throughout England and Wales, and this report is the result.

We must begin by pointing out its shortcomings. A circular with a schedule of questions was sent to every one of the 20,022 elementary schools in England and Wales, but so imperfectly was the idea of the Department explained that there has been the most perplexing confusion of thought among those whose duty it was to give the required information. 19,382 schools replied, and of these 9949 reported that the circular did not apply to them. But those who answered the questions did so with a great variety of ideas in their minds. Some believed that they were only being asked about children in regular employment; others that they had only to return children working for wages; others that they need notice only those employments prejudicial to the health of the children. An investigation into such a subject as this must always be marred by

the impossibility of securing that all the returns shall be made from one standard; it is one of those bits of work where the risk of error increases with the number of workers. But we have just cause of complaint that the Education Department, especially when it saw the extraordinary importance of the information that was coming in, apparently did nothing to check mistakes or to secure uniform returns. Statistically, the report is valueless; but it serves, nevertheless, to give us a rough idea of the state of affairs upon which it was intended to throw light.

Nine thousand four hundred and thirty-three schools sent answers affecting 144,026 scholars, or about one in every thirty-nine on the school registers, and these were grouped as follows: 131 were under seven years of age; 38,489, or one in sixty-three of this age-period on the registers, were between seven and eleven; 104,589, or one in thirteen, were upwards of ten. It must be observed that the most certain thing about these figures is that they come far short of the truth, and so the above proportions, large as they are of themselves, do no more than suggest the magnitude of the evil. Of the 131 tiny wage-earners under seven years of age, 69 are boys and 62 girls,—three of the boys and five of the girls being only five. They work up to 20, 17, 12, 24, 28, 35, and 29 hours per week, and their wages range from one penny or “tea and a half-penny” to three shillings sixpence, which three boys under Standard 1 make by working fourteen to twenty-four hours per week at brickmaking, and one shilling and threepence, which a girl of five makes by picking peas for fifteen hours per week.

The following table, showing the distribution of the wage-earners according to standard, indicates how general the evil is right through every grade. The total numbers upon the registers are placed beneath for purposes of comparison:

BELOW A STANDARD.	STANDARD.								STAND- ARD NOT STATED.
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Ex. 7	
329	3890	11,686	24,624	36,907	37,315	21,975	6,382	382	536
2,875,088		723,582	679,096	590,850	421,728	212,546	66,442	7534	
Percentage, .15		1.6	3.6	6.2	8.8	10.3	9.6	5	

The nature of the work to which the children are put is varied, but in almost every case it is purely mechanical drudgery, which can

have no good effect upon them. Of the boys, 15,182 sell newspapers; 2435 hawk goods; 76,173 run errands for shopkeepers and do odd jobs in shops; 10,636 clean boots, knives, etc.; 8627 take round dinners, knock workmen up in the morning, and so on. Of the girls, 11,585 mind babies. But if the nature of the work is such as to destroy spontaneity and joy in life, the long hours which the children engage in it are very much worse. Here are a few cases: "This boy rises between three and four every morning, starts out at 4.30 A.M. to waken up twenty-five working-men, each paying him threepence per week; returns from his rounds about 5.30, but does not go to bed again, as at six o'clock he has to go around as 'a newspaper boy' till nine o'clock, when he comes to school." "A boy acts as latherer to a barber for thirty-two hours [per week] for a wage of two shillings. He is at work for the whole of Saturday till 11 P.M., and for three hours on Sunday." One boy "begins work for his father as early as 3 A.M. and works again in the evening as late as 9 P.M." "This boy (a green-grocer's boy, aged twelve, in Standard 2) starts for London at 2.30 A.M., returns about 9.30, and then attends school." "One boy said he worked on Saturday from seven in the morning till twelve at night."

The second part of the report deals with the employments to which children go on leaving school, and again suffers statistically for want of fixed standards running throughout the enumeration. But we may safely draw two conclusions from it. In the first place, the number of children going into temporary and casual employment is truly alarming. In the West London District 7289 boys are returned as having left school during the year 1893-94, and of these 3317 are reported to have gone to work, and no fewer than 1533 went into casual employment,—became milkmen's boys, errand-boys, cart-boys, newspaper boys, etc. In North London 6032 went to work on leaving school; the occupations of 319 were unknown, and of the remainder at least 3115 went to casual employment. One-half the boy workers returned from Ipswich are errand-boys, newsboys, or cart-boys, and the same kind of work is responsible for about one in four in Norwich, two in five in Plymouth, about the same in Bristol, five in thirteen in Wolverhampton, one in three in Burton-on-Trent, two in five in Birmingham, three in ten in Liverpool, one in three in Manchester, three in seven in Newcastle-on-Tyne. Of course, these figures do not bear the same significance in each of the places named, but in each case they are disquieting. In the next place, the tables in this part

of the report show how very insignificant is the proportion of children who pass from elementary schools into higher grade schools.

The significance of this report, even when we allow for all its imperfections, cannot be overestimated. It shows how the casual laborer, the unskilled workman, the man undisciplined in the virtues of industry, the unemployed and the unemployable are made ; it reveals a shockingly low sense of parental responsibility,—partly the result of a wearisome, heartless struggle among incompetent people for the means of a decent livelihood, partly the consequence of the utter lack of inspiring ideal in the lives of great sections of the English working-classes. I am told by one who has been investigating Scottish industrial conditions for a good number of years that child-labor has not developed there to such an extent as it has done in the sister kingdom ; but it is to be regretted that the Secretary for Scotland has refused a return for that country.

Of course, the report suggests no remedies ; but it is impossible to read its astonishing figures without thinking how the state of things which they reveal can be improved. It is difficult to say how effective the moral agencies at work are. It is to be feared that the honor for education which appeared to characterize democratic movements is not so active now as it was. Perhaps the explanation is that only the leading spirits held education in honor, and managed to make it appear that their reverence was the reverence of the whole movement, while it was not. It is easier, however, to write of the tendency in industry itself. Under pressure of a semi-panic relating to our trade on foreign markets, employers are beginning to be aware that spent human material and stupid workmen do not pay. There is in consequence a growing disposition to inquire into the neglected facts bearing upon human economy in production, and as a result we find, for instance, that the half-time system is gradually falling into disuse. The bill promoted by Mr. Robson to raise the age of the half-timer was, indeed, almost out of date before it left the House of Commons. Then, a Factory Law Amendment Bill is about due, and when it appears it will very likely make the existing law limiting the employment of children, especially in domestic workshops, more workable than it now is. Finally, an attempt will possibly be made to give local authorities—town councils, etc.—power to regulate the employment of children upon the streets much more thoroughly than is now done under the Prevention of Cruelty to Children Acts, and to enable school-managers to prosecute parents and employers who habitually

work children of school-age so that they go to school too tired to do school-work.

J. R. MACDONALD.

LONDON.

THE EFFECTS OF THE FACTORY SYSTEM. By Allen Clarke.  
London: Grant Richards, 1899. Pp. viii., 178.

Mr. Clarke has had an intimate acquaintance with the factory system, and his work shows it; but, nevertheless, his book seems to us out of proportion. We have many criticisms to offer. In the first place, though the book is entitled "The Effects of the Factory System," attempts are made only here and there to discover them. Our author describes industrial conditions as they are and have been, but he does not compare them closely with those existing before the so-called industrial revolution, nor does he endeavor to assign present social facts to the several influences which have been at work. All the hardships in the factory-worker's lot are vividly depicted, and these are assumed to be the effects of the factory system. The author thinks that he has "conclusively demonstrated that the factory system of to-day is an evil thing" (p. 174). He then proceeds to inform his reader what he would have in its place. But here we must not follow step by step. In effect, what is recommended is village communities, "each fixed solid on its own agricultural basis" (p. 174), which includes cotton growing in hot-houses (p. 175). "Modern science could soon overcome the few difficulties, which are practically none at all" (p. 176). We doubt whether modern science would agree with Mr. Clarke; certainly, modern political economy would not. Modern common sense, too, is coming to the opinion that it is folly to try to grow grapes on thorns and figs on thistles. The concluding chapters, which are devoted to recommendations are, beyond a doubt, the weakest parts of the book.

Our author's representation of the factory system is over-colored. But that it is not intentionally so, we quite believe. The earnestness of the book forces us to unreservedly accept Mr. Clarke's statement that he has "written these articles as truthfully and fairly as possible" (p. 158). But there is, nevertheless, serious misrepresentation, both of the past and present. The author has not got the feel of the earlier periods; and with respect to the present, he has not succeeded in sinking his own personal equation. The factory system is viewed by him with the eyes of the quiet-loving